

Akademischer Gymnasium Festsaal

Beethovenplatz 1, 1010 Wien

5 October 2024

What a Wonderful World !!!

An Epic Musical Voyage Around the Globe

Program

Asia

My Beloved Brought Me a Sunflower

《爱人送向日葵》 *airen song wo xiangrikui*
Juliet Petrus, soprano

Ding Shande 丁善德 (1911-1995)

I Live at the Top of the Yangtze River

《我住长江头》 *wo zhu changjiang tou*
Juliet Petrus, soprano

Qing Zhu 青主 (1893-1959)

Missing Homeland 《思乡》 *si xiang*
Steffan Mullan, tenor

Huang Zi 黄自 (1904-1938)

Home 《家》 *jia*
Steffan Mullan, tenor

Lu Zaiyi 陆在易 (1943-)

Walking in the Snow to Searching for Flowering Plum Blossom

《踏雪寻梅》 *taxuexunmei*
Steffan Mullan, tenor
Juliet Petrus, soprano

Huang Zi 黄自 (1904-1938)

Viens, Mallika... Sous le dôme épais (Flower duet) from Lakmé
Juliet Petrus, soprano
Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Léo Delibes (1836-1891)

North America

For You There is no Song from *Five Millay Songs*
Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

H. Lesley Adams (1932-2024)

Sence You Went Away from *Nightsongs*
Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

H. Lesley Adams (1932-2024)

My Souls's Been Anchored in the Lord (Traditional Spiritual)
Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

arr. Florence Price (1887-1953)

Summertime from *Porgy and Bess*
Miriam Clark, soprano

George Gershwin (1898-1939)

Glitter and be Gay from *Candide*
Juliet Petrus, soprano

Leonard Bernstein (1918-1990)

Byron Yue, piano

Intermission

Africa

L'abborrita rivale a me sfuggia from *Aida*

Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Steffan Mullan, tenor

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

La fatal pietra sovra me si chiuse from *Aida*

Steffan Mullan, tenor

Miriam Clark, soprano

Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Giuseppe Verdi (1813-1901)

Europe

Vilja Lied from *Die lustige Witwe*

Juliet Petrus, soprano

Franz Lehár (1870-1948)

Lippen schweigen from *Die lustige Witwe*

Steffan Mullan, tenor

Juliet Petrus, soprano

Franz Lehár (1870-1948)

Klänge der Heimat (Csárdás) from *Die Fledermaus*

Miriam Clark, soprano

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

So muss allein ich bleibe from *Die Fledermaus*

Miriam Clark, soprano

Steffan Mullan, tenor

Juliet Petrus, soprano

Johann Strauss II (1825-1899)

Zueignug - op. 10. no. 1

Steffan Mullan, tenor

Miriam Clark, soprano

Juliet Petrus, soprano

Melody Wilson, mezzo-soprano

Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

Byron Yue, piano

The Artists



German – American soprano **Miriam Clark** is one of the most promising dramatic coloratura sopranos of our time. She was born in Frankfurt am Main and studied opera singing at the University of Music and Theater Munich with Prof. Fenna Kügel – Seifried and Maria Fitzgerald.

Her debut as Queen of the Night at the Frankfurt Opera was followed by a successful world premiere of Oscar Strasnoy's *Le Bal*, staged by Matthew Jocelyn and under the baton of Simone Young at Hamburg State Opera. Singing the highly demanding title role in Bellini's *Norma* at Theater Dortmund in 2011 marked the breakthrough in her young career, followed by Lakmé, Arminda in *La finta giardiniera* and Violetta Valéry in *La traviata* in Bonn.

Being a member of National Theatre Mannheim since 2016/17 she has made several important and successful role debuts like Chrysothemis in Strauss' *Elektra* and Aida under the baton of Alexander Soddy. She sang in Mannheim as well roles like Amelia in *Un ballo in maschera*, Norma, Elvira/*Ernani*, Elisabetta/*Don Carlo*, Leonara/*Il trovatore* and had her debut as Kaiserin in *Die Frau ohne Schatten*. In 2018 she made her house debut at the Bavarian State Opera in Munich as Dama di Lady Macbeth in Verdi's *Macbeth* under the baton of Pinchas Steinberg.

Miriam Clark will make her role debuts in the 2021/22 season as Salome at the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe and as Irene (*Rienzi*) at the Wagner Festival 22 at Oper Leipzig.

The versatile artist was invited to perform on leading concert stages, singing Leonore in the original version of Beethovens *Leonore* lead by Ivor Bolton at the Dresdner Musikfestpiele, Orff's *Carmina Burana* in St. Margarethen and at the international Beethoven festival in Bonn as well as a Gershwin program at Tonhalle Zurich.

Miriam Clark won the 2nd prize and the Opera prize at the International Concurso Caballé in Zaragossa in 2009 and the Media Prize of the renowned International Singing Competition s'Hertogenbosch in 2010.



Welsh tenor **Steffan Mullan** started his career at the Florence Opera House and subsequently at Teatro alla Scala in Milan, singing comprimario roles and in the chorus for over fifteen years. He specializes in classical and musical theatre, making concert appearances on all seven continents, including Antarctica.

In 2010, he made his professional house debut at the National Theatre of Opera Tirana as Prince Sigismondo in the world premiere of *La Vita è Sogno* by David Tukiçi and returned to Tirana the following year for Calaf in *Turandot*. He has performed more than 25 major roles including Ruggerio in *La Rondine* at Melbourne City Opera, Turiddu in *Cavalleria rusticana* with the Salzburg Voice Festival, Radames in *Aida* with Opera de Sabadell, Cavaradossi in *Tosca* at the Opera Panamà, Don José in *Carmen* with North West Opera Ireland, and Canio in *I Pagliacci* at the State Opera Varna in Bulgaria. With L'Orchestra Nacional de Cuba in Havana he performed Handel's *Messiah* as well as for the Vatican Concert Series for Pope Benedict XVI's birthday at the basilica San Giovanni in Laterano in Rome. Other notable performances include NY Carnegie Hall, Milan Sala Verdi and Barcelona Circulo del Liceu.

Due to his intense charity work, he was knighted by Vittorio Emanuele III of Savoia, making him a Cavalier of the Order of Saint Maurice and Lazarus, one of the highest accolades in Europe.



American and Italian coloratura soprano, **Juliet Petrus**, is recognized for her effortless coloratura, and versatile and captivating performances in the world of opera, concert, recital, and musical theatre across three continents and is respected as the leading Western interpreter and educator of Chinese art song. In 2023, Juliet premiered a new work in Mandarin with the Philadelphia Orchestra, was a soloist in the Salute to Vienna New Year's concert at Walt Disney Hall in Los

Angeles, appeared on the Chinese TV Program 'Everlasting Classics' 《经典咏流传》, a popular program promoting ancient Chinese poetry and music. She returned to her roots in musical theatre and as a violist as Rachel in the new musical Shanghai Sonatas at the Wallis Center for the Performing Arts in Los Angeles. Other recent appearances include with Florentine Opera (USA) in singing the roles of Le Feu, La Princesse, Le Rossignol in *L'enfant et les sortilèges*, as well as La Fée in *Viardot's Cendrillon*, and the new chamber opera, *Southern Crossings* which debuted in New York City.

She has sung with the Chongqing Festival Orchestra and recitals in Shanghai and Chongqing, China, Hannchen in *Der Vetter aus Dingsda* (online performance during Covid) and Blonde in *Entführung aus dem Serail* at Stadttheater Baden in Baden bei Wien, Austria, Aricie in *Hippolyte et Aricie* with Ensemble OrQUESTA for the Grimeborn Festival. She frequently sings the role of the The Queen of the Night in *Die Zauberflöte* in past seasons with the Hamburger Kammeroper, Germany, with Austin Lyric Opera and Lyric Opera of Chicago Opera in the Neighborhoods, USA. Soprano soloist credits for *Carmina Burana* include with the St. Louis Symphony, Colorado Symphony, Alabama Symphony. Other soloist credits include: National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing, Bach Society of St. Louis, Union Avenue Opera, St. Louis, Music of the Baroque, Chicago, Glimmerglass Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and with the Shanghai Symphony with conductor Yu Long.

Juliet recorded *A Great Distance: A Collection of Chinese and American Art Song* on the MSR Classics label in 2015 with pianist, Lydia Qiu. In 2020, she co-authored *Singing in Mandarin: A Guide to Chinese Lyric Diction and Vocal Repertoire*, with Katherine Chu, published by Rowman and Littlefield. She is pursuing her doctoral studies at the Royal College of Music, a London Arts and Humanities-funded scholar, examining the intersection of classical singing and Mandarin and the impact of cross-cultural pedagogy.



Melody Wilson Mezzo-soprano Melody Wilson has gained recognition as an accomplished operatic artist in the United States and Europe, equally celebrated in classic and contemporary repertory. Praised for her "rich voice and great acting chops" (*St Louis Post-Dispatch*), her "smoky mezzo-soprano and stately deportment" (*Opera News*), and her "beautiful voice and well-honed technique" (*San Francisco Classical Voice*), she's been hailed for performances that "reign supreme" (*St*

Louis Magazine), for her "ruby timbre" (*KDHX*) and for her "fine comic work" (*Broadway World*). She appears on *Opera America Magazine's* winter 2024 cover as Fricka in *Das Rheingold*.

In 2023-24, she makes her Carnegie Hall debut in Mozart's Requiem Mass on St. Patrick's Day. She appears in Wagner all over the United States, recently making her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut as Mary in *Der Fliegende Holländer*, and returning to Seattle Opera as Fricka (*Das Rheingold*) and to the Dallas Symphony as Roßweiße in *Die Walküre*. 2024 brings company debuts with Atlanta Opera in Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, with the New West Symphony in Händel's *Messiah*, and with Bach Festival Florida and the Charleston (SC) Symphony in Paul Moravec's oratorio *Sanctuary Road*. She recently gave recitals at Northwestern College (IA) and Pabianice, Poland. And another role debut, as Amneris in Verdi's *Aida* at Union Avenue Opera, highlights summer 2024.

Wilson enjoyed a varied 2022-23, covering Olga in Tchaikovsky's *Eugene Onegin* and John Adams' new *Antony and Cleopatra* at San Francisco Opera, and Cousin Blanche in Terence Blanchard's *Champion* at the Metropolitan Opera. Her season commenced with Olga, and Meg Page in Verdi's *Falstaff* at Union Avenue Opera, and a concert performance of the mezzo-soprano role in *Sanctuary Road* with Chautauqua Symphony Orchestra, which she reprised in the staged opera version of the work with the Lancaster Symphony in February. She returned to a favorite role, Fenena in Verdi's *Nabucco*, with Washington Concert Opera in March. Her season concludes in May with a Beethoven *9th Symphony* with the Brooklyn Chamber Orchestra, and a new work by Martin Rokeach, *Bodies on the Line*, with the Oakland Symphony.

In 2021-22, Wilson debuted with the San Francisco Symphony, performing a concert including Brahms' *Alto Rhapsody* and spirituals rearranged by Jack Perla, and with the Oakland Symphony singing Strauss. She also debuted with Baltimore Concert Opera in the role of Principessa di Bouillon in Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*, and essayed the roles of Mum in Britten's *Albert Herring* with the Princeton Festival, and Olga in semi-staged performances of *Eugene Onegin* with the Dallas Symphony.



Byron Yue, a Chinese-American pianist, fortepianist, and opera coach. After graduated from Weber State University with Dr. Yu-Jane Yang, Byron continued his study at Musik und Kunst (MUK) Privatuniversität der Stadt Wien under the guidance of Dr. Prof. Johannes Kropfisch, Prof. Jura Margulis, Prof. Roland Batik for piano, and Prof. Mikayel Balyan for fortepiano.

Byron has appeared in masterclasses given by world renowned musicians, including Maestro Paul Badura-Skoda, Heinz Mejimorec, Nelita True, Lydia Artymiw, Jose Feghali, and Garret Zittelbart, Besides, Byron has also worked with Hyunki Joo & Yu Horiuchi. Byron has performed in the musical venues as such: Steiner & Gläserner Saal-Musikverein, Peterskirche, Ehrbarsaal, Allred theatre, Browning Center, Schubert Geburtshaus, Kaisersaal, Theatre Museum – Eroica Saal, Klimt-Villa Wien, Pleyel Kulturzentrum, Gesellschaft für Musiktheater, Bank Austria Salon-Barock Saal, and so on. He is frequently invited to perform for numerous musical societies, organisations and events in Vienna. Byron is also highly involved in chamber music field as well as vocal coaching and accompaniment.

In concert, Byron has cooperated with many singers from, for example, Vienna State Opera Haus, Vienna Volksoper, Linz State Theater, Theater Bonn, Sofia Opera and Ballet, and so on. He has also regularly played in the class of KS. Grace Bumbry, KS. Olivia Miljakovic, KS. Ulrike Steinsky, Prof. Dr. Lanskoj, and Prof. Gerrit Prießnitz. He also accompanied in many masterclasses and auditions. In Poland, he was invited to perform for the 10th year Anniversary of Pabianice International Music festival. Byron has also attended ISA festival for chamber music with Prof. Johannes Meissl. He gained very high reputation for his sensational interpretation and cooperation abilities. In 2019, Byron became the Vice President of Euro-Chinese Educational Events Association. In the same year, he found the Golden July Music Festival Vienna and Masterclass based in Vienna, he has enormous passion to create a Viennese cultural stage for more young and professional musicians.